

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124269

FOR HARTMAN

FOLLOWING REPEAT ROME 7634 ACTIONSECSTATE 26 MAY 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7634

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (PRES. FORD), IT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO ROME: ITALIAN ACTIVITIES PERTAIN-
ING TO U.S. BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

REF: ROME 7627

1. FURTHER TO REFTEL, ITALIAN INTEREST IN SHARING US BICENTENNIAL
SEEN IN THEIR PLANNED PARTICIPATION VARIOUS EVENTS IN THE US,
INCLUDING:

- A. MILAN'S LA SCALA OPERA COMPANY IS SCHEDULED TO PLAY TEN
PERFORMANCES AT KENNEDY CENTER IN WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 1976-
A PARTICULARLY COSTLY UNDERTAKING;
- B. A LARGE EXHIBIT ON THE ARCHITECTURE OF PALLADIO IS BEING
PLANNED, PROBABLY FOR CHARLOTTESVILLE, WASHINGTON AND
PHILADELPHIA, ABOUT APRIL 1976;

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C. THE GOI HAS INDICATED THEY WILL SEND THE FAMED DE MEDICI

VENUS SCULPTURE IN FLORENCE, FOR THE "EYE OF JEFFERSON"
EXHIBIT AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY, WASHINGTON.

D. ITALIANS EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN SEVERAL LOWER-LEVEL
EVENTS IN US SUCH AS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL ON WASHINGTON MALL
SPONSORED BY SMITHSONIAN IN SUMMERS 1975 AND 1976, A
CONFERENCE OF WORLD FIGURES IN AMERICAN STUDIES SET FOR
WASHINGTON JUNE 1976, ETC.

MUCH OF THE FOREGOING IS BEING UNDERTAKEN WITH THE ACTIVE ENCOURAGE-
MENT -- AND IN SOME CASES FINANCIAL SUPPORT -- OF THE ITALIAN
GOVERNMENT.

2. AS FOR EVENTS IN ITALY COMMEMORATING BICENTENNIAL, VARIOUS
INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS ARE NOW FORMING PLANS FOR 1976 EVENTS,
SUCH AS CONFERENCES ON US HISTORY (GENOA) AND FOREIGN POLICY
(PADUA), CIVIC "AMERICA" WEEKS, AND AN EXHIBIT OF IMPORTANT US
WORKS OF ART TO TOUR SEVERAL ITALIAN CITIES. EMBASSY IS
ENCOURAGING AND COORDINATING. VMLPE

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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